

International Journal Conference in Recent Trends in Mechanical Engineering,
(IJCRTME09), Trivandrum, Kerala, India. 24~26 Apr, 2009.

The Effect of the Foundation Subject to the Final Year Subject

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ABSTRACT

This paper discussed the foundation or pre-requisite subjects influence the student's performance in Heat Transfer subject in University Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and its importance to achieve Outcome Based Education (OBE). Thermodynamics I and II are pre-requisite subject for Heat Transfer. Randomly 30 mechanical engineering students were picked to analysis their performance. Regression analysis and Neural Network were used to prove the effect of pre-requisite subject toward Heat transfer. The analysis shows that Thermodynamics I highly affect the performance of Heat transfer and the students who excellent in Thermodynamics I, will achieve excellent performance in Thermodynamics II and Heat transfer. This result shows that excellent foundations on early years will effect to the final year result directly.

Keywords: Foundation, Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, Outcome Based Education

INTRODUCTION

Early year in engineering study, there are few basic subject which are pre-requisite or foundations to next few subject. Example Thermodynamics I is pre-requisite for Thermodynamics II and further in Heat Transfer. Pre-requisite means course required as preparation for entry into a more advanced academic course or program [1]. Regression analysis is a technique used for the modelling and analysis of numerical data consisting of values of a dependent variable (response variable) and of one or more independent variables (explanatory variables). The dependent variable in the regression equation is modelled as a function of the independent variables, corresponding parameters ("constants"), and an error term. The error term is treated as a random variable. It represents unexplained variation in the dependent variable. The parameters are estimated so as to give a "best fit" of the data. Most commonly the best fit is evaluated by using the least squares method, but other criteria have also been used [1].

Regression can be used for prediction (including forecasting of time-series data), inference, hypothesis testing and modelling of causal relationships. These uses of regression rely heavily on the underlying assumptions being satisfied. Regression analysis has been criticized as being misused for these purposes in many cases where the appropriate assumptions cannot be verified to hold [1, 2]. One factor contributing to the misuse of regression is that it can take considerably more skill to critique a model than to fit a model [3].

However, when a sample consists of various groups of individuals such as males and females, or different intervention groups, regression analysis can be performed to examine whether the

effects of independent variables on a dependent variable differ across groups, either in terms of intercept or slope. These groups can be considered from different populations (e.g., male population or female population), and the population is considered heterogeneous in that these subpopulations may require different population parameters to adequately capture their characteristics. Since this source of population heterogeneity is based on observed group memberships such as gender, the data can be analyzed using regression models by taking into consideration multiple groups. In the methodology literature, subpopulations that can be identified beforehand are called groups [4, 5]. Model can account for all kinds of individual differences. Regression mixture models described here are a part of a general framework of finite mixture models [6] and can be viewed as a combination of the conventional regression model and the classic latent class model [7]. It should be noted that there are various types of regression mixture models [7], but this only focus on the linear regression mixture model. The following sections will first describe some unique characteristics of the linear regression mixture model in comparison to the conventional linear regression model, including integration of covariates into the model. Second, a step-by-step regression mixture analysis of empirical data demonstrates how the linear regression mixture model may be used by incorporating population heterogeneity into the model.

Ko et al. [8] have introduced an unsupervised, self-organised neural network combined with an adaptive time-series AR modelling algorithm to monitor tool breakage in milling operations. The machining parameters and average peak force have been used to build the AR model and neural network. Lee and Lee [9] have used a neural network-based approach to show that by using the force ratio, flank wear can be predicted within 8% to 11.9% error and by using force increment; the prediction error can be kept within 10.3% of the actual wear. Choudhury et al. [10] have used an optical fiber to sense the dimensional changes of the work-piece and correlated it to the tool wear using a neural network approach. Dimla and Lister [11] have acquired the data of cutting force, vibration and measured wear during turning and a neural network has been trained to distinguish the tool state.

It's very important for all the lecturers to understand and implemented OBE concept to the student. The student performance can be measured and continuously improvement can be done [12]. Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University Malaysia Pahang vision is to become a world class competency-based mechanical engineering faculty and Mission are dedicated to produce global mechanical engineers with high level of knowledge, learning capability, competency and integrity. Moreover, we are committed to enhance research and development towards introducing commercially viable products and services in manufacturing and automotive sectors [13]. To achieve it the student must train over from first year. This paper will describe the influence of prerequisite subject toward Heat transfer. The analysis will be done using regression method and Neural Network.

REGRESSION METHOD

In linear regression, the model specification is that the dependent variable, y_i is a linear combination of the parameters (but need not be linear in the independent variables). For example, in simple linear regression for modelling N data points there is one independent variable: x_i , and two parameters, β_0 and β_1 [2]:

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \epsilon_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, N \quad (1)$$

Results from the 30 mechanical engineering students were collected. There are mixed between female and male, no age different, different of background and all the students from same

class. Regression analysis was done to check the most dominant variables (Thermodynamics I and Thermodynamics II) effect towards response (Heat transfer). Table 1 shows the marks of the students.

Table 1: Marks for the subjects.

Student	Thermodynamics1	Thermodynamics2	Heat transfer
1	85	83	85
2	51	50	53
3	67	65	69
4	55	61	55
5	44	51	51
6	64	63	55
7	42	50	49
8	54	63	60
9	58	50	58
10	52	61	60
11	69	77	77
12	58	64	68
13	57	61	68
14	71	68	60
15	61	70	73
16	53	66	62
17	60	71	59
18	45	55	57
19	47	60	56
20	62	77	69
21	45	60	53
22	40	52	37
23	53	70	62
24	53	61	70
25	56	60	73
26	51	63	69
27	44	62	57
28	40	58	52
29	62	80	71
30	47	63	46

MULTILAYER PERCEPTIONS NEURAL NETWORK

In the current application, the objective is to use the supervised network with multilayer perceptions and train with the back-propagation algorithm (with momentum). The components of the input pattern consist of the control variables used in the student performance (Thermodynamics I and Thermodynamics II), whereas the components of the output pattern represent the responses from sensors (Heat transfer). During the training process, initially all patterns in the training set were presented to the network and the corresponding error parameter (sum of squared errors over the neurons in the output layer) was found for each of them. Then the pattern with the maximum error was found which was used for changing the synaptic weights. Once the weights were changed, all the training patterns were again fed to the network and the pattern with the maximum error was then found. This process was continued till the maximum error in the training set became less than the allowable error specified by the user. This method has the advantage of avoiding a large

number of computations, as only the pattern with the maximum error was used for changing the weights. Fig.1 shows the neural network computational mode with 2-5-1 structure.

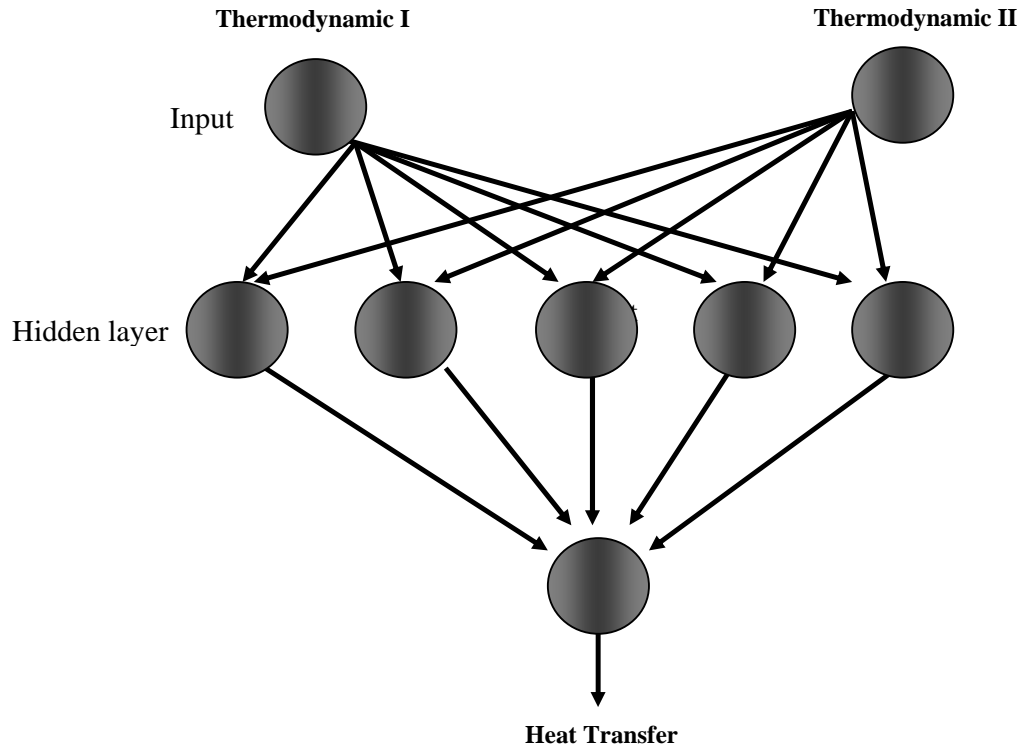


Fig. 1: Neural Network with 2-5-1 structure.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The regression equation as below:

$$\text{Heat transfer} = 8.04 + 0.498 \text{ Thermodynamics I} + 0.408 \text{ Thermodynamics II} \quad (2)$$

Equation 2 shows that Thermodynamics I is more dominant compare with Thermodynamics II. From the relations, increase in Thermodynamics I and Thermodynamics II it will increase the result in Heat transfer. Table 2 shows that Thermodynamics really significantly affect the heat transfer. It means, those have a very good foundation in Thermodynamics I, they can do better in Heat transfer. The p-value in the Analysis of Variance Table 2 (0.000) indicates that the relationship between Thermodynamics I and Thermodynamics II is statistically significant at an a-level of 0.05. This is also shown by the p-value for the estimated coefficient of Thermodynamics I, which is 0.008 as shown in Table 3.

Table 2: Analysis of Variance

Source	Degree of freedom	Sequence of square	Mean square	F ratio	P value
Regression	2	1873.87	936.93	22.64	0
Residual Error	27	1117.6	41.39		
Total	29	2991.47			

Table 3: Estimated coefficient

Predictor	Coefficient	Sequence of estimated coefficient	T ratio	P value
Constant	8.043	8.771	0.92	0.367
Thermodynamics1	0.498	0.1734	2.87	0.008
Thermodynamics2	0.4079	0.2032	2.01	0.055

Fig. 2 shows the sensitivity test. The test shows that Thermodynamics I is the main effect for the heat transfer. The results for the sensitivity test and regression analysis show the same results.

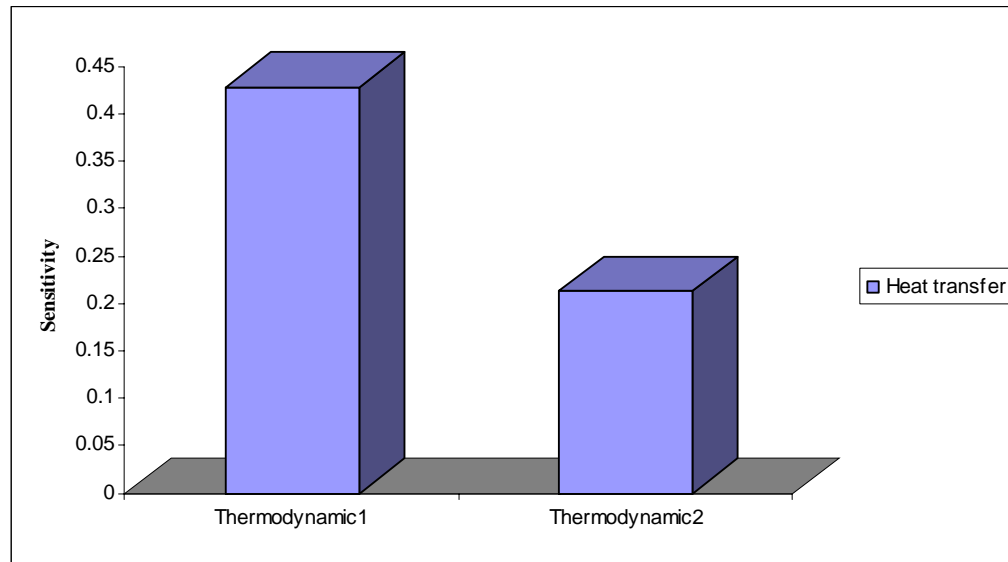


Fig.2: Sensitivity Test

CONCLUSION

The regression analysis and neural network is very useful tool to do analysis in term of measure student performance and importance of foundation subject. The results prove that Thermodynamics I affect the student performance in Heat transfer. The foundation subject must be very strong, if the students want to perform in Thermodynamics II and Heat Transfer. This is very important for the University in achieving their OBE.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to express their deep gratitude to Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) for provided the financial support.

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